

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 9 are currently pending. Claims 1 – 6, 8, and 9 have been allowed. Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by EP0834977. Claim 7 is hereby cancelled.

Since the Examiner has indicated that all of the remaining claims have been allowed, the Applicants respectfully assert that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance.

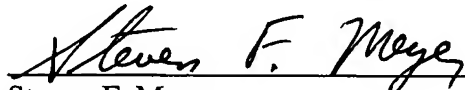
CONCLUSION

For these reasons, it is believed that all claims are patentable and that this application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: November 17, 2003

By:


Steven F. Meyer
Registration No. 35,613

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
345 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10154-0053
(212) 758-4800 Telephone
(212) 751-6849 Facsimile